



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/507,926	04/15/2005	Shane Robert Crockett	0184-0162PUS1	6808

2292 7590 05/11/2009
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

DAVIS, JEFFERY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3628

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

05/11/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/507,926	Applicant(s) CROCKETT ET AL.	
	Examiner JEFFERY DAVIS	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/17/2004; 12/08/2006; 01/16/2007; 05/21/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of claims

This action is in reply to the response filed on February 06, 2009.

Claim 6 and 8-11 have been amended.

Claims 1-5, 7, 12, 13 and 15 are currently pending and have been examined.

Claim 14 has been canceled.

Claim 15 has been added.

Previous Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 14 was previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. The rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claim 14.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number

**2001/0049613 A1 to Gramann, III et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application
Publication Number 2003/0177044 A1 Sokel et al.**

As to claim 1, Gramann discloses a system to facilitate bookings including:

at least one business centre, each said at least one business centre having at least one product available for booking Gramann ¶ 0022)

each said at least one business centre includes a first processing means for receiving and making bookings of said at least one product from at least one agent or customer; and Gramann ¶ 0052)

at one or more predetermined periods of actions said first and second processing means are synchronized so that booking information in said first and second processing means is the same.

(US 20010049613 -Synchronizing reservation database-A1 Gramann ¶ 0028; 0039; 0059)

a central data centre including a second processing means for receiving and making bookings of said at least one product from said at least one agent or customer or at least one other agent of customer (Gramann ¶ 0011). Gramann does not explicitly disclose however, Sokel does disclose:

a central data centre (Sokel, ¶ 0007). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

As to claim 2, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Sokel further discloses:

synchronisation occurs after each booking (Sokel, ¶ 0008; 0023; Fig. 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

As to claim 3, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1 or 2. Gramann further discloses:

an operator can initiate synchronization (Gramann ¶ 0008; 0038-0039; 0049-0051; 0059).

As to claim 4, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Sokel further discloses:

said business centre offers accommodation (Sokel, ¶ 0030; 0032; claim 12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

As to claim 8, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Gramann further discloses:

said first processing means forwarding any said changed values to said second processing means, and said second processing means forwarding any said changed values to said first processing means (Gramann, claim 24). Gramann does not explicitly disclose however, Sokel does disclose:

first and second processing means identifying any values that have changed since a previous synchronization (Sokel, ¶ 0010; 0026; 0037). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

As to claim 10, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Sokel further discloses:

said first and second processing means both include a common user interface (Sokel, ¶ 0007; 0017; 0030; claim 4, 19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 3628

the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

As to claim 11, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Gramann further discloses:

modifications to booking conditions are made to said second processing means and then synchronized to said first processing means (Gramann, ¶ 0040; claim 11).

As to claim 15, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. Gramann further discloses:

the first and second processing means are connectable to the internet (Gramann ¶ 0011; 0022). Gramann does not explicitly disclose however, Sokel does disclose:

synchronization occurs over the internet (Sokel ¶ 0008; 0010; 0030). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sokel. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006).

Claims 5, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0049613 A1 to Gramann, III et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0177044 A1 Sokel et al., and further in view of US Patent Number 2002/0069093 B2 to Stanfield.

As to claim 5, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 4. None of the references explicitly disclose however, Stanfield does discloses:

said product included rooms available at said business centre (Stanfield ¶ 0012; 0150; Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann and Sokel with Stanfield. One of ordinary skill in the art

Art Unit: 3628

would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006), and provide an electronic reservation referral system and method that can use Internet technology, not to replace traditional travel services, but to make them dynamic (Stanfield, ¶ 0004).

As to claim 6, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. None of the references explicitly disclose however, Stanfield does disclose:

said business centre is a tour operator (Stanfield ¶ 0026). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann and Sokel with Stanfield. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006), and provide an electronic reservation referral system and method that can use Internet technology, not to replace traditional travel services, but to make them dynamic (Stanfield, ¶ 0004).

As to claim 7, Gramann, Sokel and Stanfield disclose a system as claimed in claim 6. Stanfield further discloses:

said product includes tours available from said tour operator (Stanfield ¶ 0028; 0150). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann and Sokel with Stanfield. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006), and provide an electronic reservation referral system and method that can use Internet technology, not to replace traditional travel services, but to make them dynamic (Stanfield, ¶ 0004).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0049613 A1 to Gramann, III et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0177044 A1 Sokel et al., and further in view of US Patent Number 2003/0040946 A1 Sprenger.

As to claim 9, Gramann and Sokel disclose a system as claimed in claim 1. None of the references explicitly disclose however, Sprenger does disclose:

a dispute resolution system to alert a user to possible double bookings (Sprenger, ¶ 0240; 0245). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann and Sokel with Sprenger. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database, storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and automatically and periodically synchronizing the primary database with the secondary database (Sokel, Para. 0006), and provide a system for a user to develop a travel plan (Sprenger, ¶ 0007).

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0049613 A1 to Gramann, III et al., in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0040946 A1 Sprenger et al.

As to claim 12, Gramann discloses a business centre booking system including:

a first processing means to receive and make bookings of at least one product available from said business centre (Gramann, ¶ 0011; claim 1, 2, 24)

at a predetermined time said first processing means synchronises data with said external server via said communication means (Gramann ¶ 0028; 0039; claim 9). Gramann does not explicitly disclose however, Sprenger does disclose:

a communication means to receive bookings made via an external server of said at least one product (Sprenger ¶ 0088). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Gramann, with Sprenger. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide a method for scheduling reservations comprises storing a site-based reservation on a primary database,

storing a web-based reservation on a secondary database (Gramann Para. 0008), and provide a system for a user to develop a travel plan (Sprenger, ¶ 0007).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0049613 A1 to Gramann, III et al.

As to claim 13, Gramann discloses a synchronized booking system including:

a second processing means for receiving and making bookings of at least one product available from at least one business centre (Gramann ¶ 0022; 0029; Fig. 2)

a communication means to enable said bookings to be synchronised with a first processing means of said at least one business centre (Gramann ¶ 0012; 0022-0024; 0026; 0050 0069).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Allen J. Jung whose telephone number is 571.270.3919. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am- 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, JOHN W. HAYES can be reached at 571.272.6708.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Art Unit: 3628

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair/pair-direct.uspto.gov> >. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866.217.9197 (toll- free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to 571-273-8300.

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the United States Patent and

Trademark Office Customer Service Window:

Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

May 1, 2009

/JEFFERY DAVIS/

Examiner, Art Unit 3628

May 01, 2009

/John W Hayes/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3628